(b) whether Government are to change their earlier policy; which was prevalent during the last gulf war; and

(c) whether America has also discussed with India in this regard while atmosphere is being created by America against Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) India is vitally interested in the peace and prosperity of the Gulf region and has therefore consistently called for the resolution of the crisis relating to Iraq through political and diplomatic means under the auspices of the UN. India recognises the validity of the unanimous decision of the United Nations Security Council in its Resolution 1441 which provides for the disarmament of Iraq. Iraq has to faithfully comply with the provisions of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The work of the inspectors is continuing in Iraq, and UNMOVIC and IAEA have submitted two reports to the Security Council on 27 January and 14 Februrary. The Security Council should decide on what further action needs to be taken. All concerned should decide on what further action needs to be taken.

(b) Government's decisions will be based on consideration of all relevant factors in the evolving situation with regard to Iraq, within the framework of India's national interests and the well-established principles of its foreign policy.

(c) The United States has conveyed to the Government during various bilateral interactions its position on the Iraq issue and the political and diplomatic measures it has initiated in support of its position.India has conveyed its position as outlined in (a) above to the United States.

Government's role during US-Iraq war

278. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role Government are willing to play in the recent chain of event following the UN weapons inspection in Iraq;

(b) whether Government are willing to support the Americans or the Iraqis;

(c) if the former, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if the latter, whether it would not jeopardise our cause to fight against terrorism in the UN Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) India is vitally interested in the peace and prosperity of the Gulf region and has therefore consistently called for the resolution of the crisis relating to Iraq through political and diplomatic means under the auspices of the UN. India recognises the validity of the unanimous decision of the United Nations Security Council in its Resolution 1441 which provides for the disarmament of Iraq. Iraq has to faithfully comply with the provisions of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The work of the inspectors is continuing in Iraq, and UNMOVIC and IAEA have submitted two reports to the Security Council on 27 January and 14 February. The Security Council should decide on what further action needs to be taken. All concerned should fully cooperate in finding a peaceful resolution to the issue.

(d) India remains firm on the imperative of greater international cooperation to combat global terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism, which transcends the current issues relating to Iraq.

Apprehension of war against Iraq

279. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are apprehensive that there is going to be a war between USA and its allies and Iraq;

(b) Government's stand on the issue of America's war threats to Iraq and whether the same has been communicated to wSA and UK;

(c) what would be the economic impact of war on India; and

(d) the steps taken to overcome the possible adverse economic impacts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) India is vitally interested in the peace and prosperity of the Gulf region and has therefore consistently called for the resolution of the crisis relating to Iraq through political and